(IV.) Resolutions by Members

A. Training in Archives-Keeping and Research Methodology

(1) Resolution by the Government of Uttar Pradesh

"Resolved that students undertaking a study of modern Indian history in their post-graduate studies should have a knowledge of elementary principles of archives-keeping, especially in methodology of historical research and aids, as the archives are the primary source of modern Indian history. It is, therefore, necessary that a paper on the subject may be introduced in the post-graduate course."

Explanatory note:

It has been experienced that the research students in history attending the archives are completely ignorant of the methods of historical research and aids, so they experience much difficulty in finding out the requisite materials they actually need. It is very important that the history of the country now written should be based on original records which were not open to the researchers some time ago. Only then new light on Indian history can be thrown. Hence knowledge of records preserved in the archives and the mode of their use is very essential for the students of modern Indian history. As the archives are the primary source of modern Indian history, their knowledge is important even for those students also who do not wish to carry on research.

Standing Committee's views:

The need to equip the post-graduate history students with an elementary knowledge of archives-keeping and

methodology of handling and using of records for historical research is obvious. The Indian Historical Records Commission has already made the same recommendation in this regard. At its Session held in 1949 at Cuttack, the Commission vide Resolution No. X resolved that the curriculum for the Masters' Degree in History and Commerce in Indian Universities should include the handling of archives and the study and criticism of unpublished documents, with a view to giving the students early training and practice in original research. The resolution was forwarded by the Government of India to the Inter-University Board and the Universities. The Board in its reply informed that "the Universities feel that introduction of new [illegible] subjects should be left to the discretion of each University, mainly because facilities differ in different Universities. The Universities, however, have noted the recommendation of the Commission and would be glad to implement it whenever circumstances permit." Among the Universities, only those of Calcutta, Osmania and Annamalai replied to the resolution but ruled out the need to have any such arrangement. The National Committee of Archivists at its 18th meeting held in 1965, reiterated the Commission's resolution. The above recommendation was also forwarded by the University Grants Commission to the Universities for necessary action.

In 1971, the Commission at its 41st Session held at Trivandrum, made another and slightly different recommendation, suggesting, "that the Universities may provide facilities for archival training during the 5th Five Year Plan period if the University Grants Commission could provide financial assistance for the purpose." (Resolution No. IX). The above

resolution was forwarded to the University Grants Commission and other Universities. So far 15 Universities have replied and out of these only the Bhagalpur University is considering to include some papers on archives administration in M.A. History course. The Universities of Saurashtra, Berhampur and South Gujarat have shown willingness to start the course, provided financial assistance was given by the University Grants Commission. Sardar Patel University has expressed its agreement in principle with the above resolution.

In view of the above, it is desirable that more time be allowed to these or any other University to take action on this recommendation. Attention is also invited to Resolution No.2 below, submitted by Dr. Jata Shankar Jha.

(2) Resolution by Dr. Jata Shankar Jha

"That provision for some extra-mural lectures on archival subjects be arranged in Universities, and for trainees for Civil Services of the State Governments for the wider dissemination of archival knowledge in the country."

Explanatory note:

To arrange such lectures is not very difficult. We have senior University teachers in various archival committees of the Government of India and Regional Records Survey Committees of the States. If these teacher-members take upon themselves to arrange a few such lectures even for the students of history only, it will really be a big achievement. These students at a very early and formative period of their lives would become conscious of the importance of archives, and later in life, placed in whatever station, would help in